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"For the information of my sporting friends in Shanghai, I may tell them that so far my bag consists of one wild goose, shot near Hankow, my journey to this place having been through a country destitute of game.

"Up to this time I have cherished the hope of being able to reach Sudiya from Bathang, but important considerations force me to abandon the idea. Without instruments and funds I cannot and dare not penetrate the unknown country between these two places. With the help of Providence I will reach Lhasa, where, disposing of my mules and ponies, I will foot it to Khatmandoo, hoping at some future time to accompany a proper expedition through this country.

"Nothing can exceed the kindness of the Catholic missionaries in China, especially Monsgr. Desflech, bishop of Chung-king, and Monsgr. Cheauvan. To the latter I shall ever owe a deep debt of gratitude, while to the united help of the French and Italian Catholic missionaries generally I am indebted for the pleasure of being at this moment on the western borders of China.

"Personally, with the exception of a slight cold and profuse perspirations at night, I have nothing to complain of, or rather feel that it is of no use complaining; otherwise I might fill pages with grumbings at martyrdom from vermin, bad housing, the pardonable tyranny of my Chinese interpreter, and wretched food.

"For the information of future travellers, I should mention that beyond this place as far as Lhasa, money is at a great discount, two or three needles and a little thread, or a piece of red Chinese cloth, often procuring what money cannot. Rupees pass for 32 tael cents, but the Mandzu people do not particularly care for them, and sycee is used at a great loss. I have laid in a stock of needles, thread, cloth, and a kind of turquoise stone, much prized by Mandzus, and brought hither from Shansi. These stones, about the size of French beans, I purchased at 2½ taels per hundred. The idea of becoming a needle and thread hawker is novel and amusing.

"I leave this on Wednesday, the 29th inst., having been detained more than twenty days to procure mules, ponies, and an interpreter. If I am stopped at Tsamdo by the Tibetans, I shall return to this place, and make for Ava *via* Tarli and Bhamo, but I hope this is the last you will hear of me until I reach Nepal.

"Trusting that this will reach you in safety,

"T. T. COOPER."

4. *Extract of a Letter from MR. W. CHANDLESS, Gold Medallist R.G.S., now exploring the Tributaries of the Amazons.*

Manáos, March 21, 1868.

My journey from England began under bad auspices, for at Southampton they discovered my photographic materials and refused to admit them on board; however, that loss was not serious. On arriving here about the end of June, I found things much changed for the worse: there were no Bolivian Indians, whose services would have enabled me to ascend the Purus; the Consul had given orders to have them laid hold of whenever they turned up here, and sent to Bolivia, on the plea that there are more than 2000 now scattered about the Amazons, and that the lack both of their labour and of their poll-tax was felt in Bolivia. The Brazilian authorities executed his orders pretty strictly; so I found I had no chance of a crew of Bolivians. In any case, however (as perhaps I said to you in England), it was too late in the year to attempt ascending

to the Beni with much hope of success, and under the circumstances impossible. Accordingly, I went by steamer up the Amazons to Tefé to try the Juruá.

I travelled about three months up the Juruá, which is about 25 days' journey beyond previous explorers *on the main river*; the distances I have not yet added up, perhaps they may come to something between 1000 and 1200 (English) miles; my farthest point was about $7^{\circ} 12' \text{ s.}$ and $72^{\circ} 10' \text{ w.}$ The journey was cut short by an attack of Nauas Indians, who in past times used to make forays far below, and have long been the bugbear of the upper Juruá, both to white people and Indians; they are notable for the use of large round shields of tapir-hide. We were in no danger at all in the skirmish we had with them; but my men, recollecting the recent and serious attack on the Government expedition up the River Javary, were, with but one exception, unwilling to continue up-stream, and I had no means of making them do so; already I had been forced to put all the oars at night under the awning, as twice they were thrown away in the hope of thus stopping the journey. No doubt there was a good chance of danger, as an up-stream canoe must, as you know, travel along the bank, and ambuscades are 'easy': still we ought to have tried the thing, and I shall always look back with shame on our return. The river there was still a considerable stream, 130 to 150 yards wide, and in flood 5 or 6 fathoms deep.

The *main Juruá* does not approach the Purús, unless it be quite at the sources of both rivers: it is the Tarauacá, an affluent of the Juruá, and the only large one which rises near the Purús. João da Cunha and a good many drug-collectors have been up this river. The course of the Juruá, as might be expected, is very different from that given in maps; above lat. $6^{\circ} 30' \text{ s.}$ its *up-stream* course is mainly west; that is, for 40 miles of southing it makes about $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ westing. In fact, the course of all the rivers between the Madeira and Ucayali have probably this character. Captain Costa Azevedo, the Brazilian chief of the Boundary Commission with Peru, tells me that the River Javary has a similar direction. The farthest point they reached was in about $6^{\circ} 50' \text{ s.}$, and the river there a small stream, a mere brook, so that he doubts if it rises more than a few miles, if at all, to the south of 7° . By a treaty just concluded with Bolivia, the boundary between that country and Brazil is to run from the mouth of the River Beni to the source of the River Javary.

From Tefé I came down to this place in a canoe, and since then have made a trip to Maués,* and up the Maués River and one of its affluents to the falls or rapids of each; this was a mere excursion, still I mapped out the river and took observations so far as weather allowed. Probably I shall remain here till the end of May; then I wish to start for the Beni—I hardly venture to say "hope," for the difficulties of getting a crew, especially for two canoes, are very great, and with but one canoe the chance of successful exploration very small. There are two German engineers (J. and F. Keller) sent here by the Government to examine the falls, &c., of the River Madeira, and the probable expense, &c., of canalisation and making a road. They purpose starting at the end of April; but to get these men the President has been obliged to solicit the aid of the Bolivian Consul, which does not make my chance better.

W. CHANDLESS.

* An affluent of the right bank of the Amazons, between the Madeira and the Tapajos, and discharging itself into a large side channel of the river.—[Ed.]